

# RALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting on 13 June 2019 in Ralston Community Centre

**Present** – Allan Thompson (AT), Sandra Reynolds (SR), Fergal McCauley (FM), Hugh Sherry (HS), Simon Hall (SH), David Dougan (DD), Carolyn Ward (CW), Bill Whyte (BW), Ian Rae (IR), May Fernie (MF), Bill Gray (BG).

**In Attendance** – Cllr J Adam- McGregor (JA), Cllr Jim Sharkey (JS), 1 resident in process of joining RCC, 3 other residents. Guest speaker Cllr Iain Nicolson (IN), Leader of Renfrewshire Council.

**Apologies** – Alison Scott (AS)

**Welcome from the Chair** – Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

**Police Report** – No police in attendance.

**Councillors Reports** – JA advised that the Council is in the process of setting up a voluntary professional dog-walkers scheme, where good practice will be promoted. JA advised that the graffiti noted at previous meetings has now been removed. JA said that the silt in Barshaw pond was being tested to check it's not contaminated, after which it will be removed - JA will find out likely timescales for this work. JS advised that there are no resources available to resurface or mark parking bays in the Barshaw park carpark. JS highlighted the recent damage to bus stops and asked any residents who witnessed the damage to report this to the police. JS was asked whether plastic or unbreakable glass could be installed instead, JS stated he'd ask about this.

**Minutes of the previous meeting** – Proposed by HS and seconded by AT. 2 amendments noted – (1) the Full council meeting had a thin agenda rather than being thinly attended and (2) the reference to bad language by Council officers should read bad language by St Mirren FC personnel in their training ground.

**Matters arising from previous minutes** – AT advised that the Forum update will be carried forward to the next meeting. JS said that some residents had raised concerns about the traffic generated by the new estate at Hawkhead, particularly regarding the impact of the location of the zebra crossing on Seedhill Road. This could be relieved by moving it further down or changing it to a Puffin crossing, and suggested that if residents wanted this, that they should suggest it to the Council. JA enquired about whether the vacant land at Hawkhead station could be used for parking and was advised that this is allocated for housing, so cannot be used for parking. HS advised that as yet there had been no requests from the youth forum for support. JA advised that the youth voice has been appointed.

**Secretary's Report** – AT asked whether there were any questions re anything AS had sent out – there were none. AT highlighted that the Community Council Elections are happening between 12 Aug and 13 Sep 2019, which will be actioned at the next meeting. AT also advised that the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day is on 8 May 2020, which we can indicate if we're interested in hearing more about.

BG advised that he'd attended a site access visit to Honeybog Hill in April, only one suitable access point exists from Penilee Road (which you need to cross a busy road to access). However the Council believe this meets the requirements of the Land Reform Act. BG advised that a request for a stile be installed at another location, which the Community Council would pay for. However the land owner had refused this. JA will ask for further legal advice on what the Act requires for reasonable access.

**Treasurer's Report** – FM advised a current balance of £2266.26. £146.70 expenditure since May, £100 of which was for a commemorative brick at Coats Memorial Church. FM has also registered with the ICO at a cost of £35 per year.

**Guest Speaker: Cllr Iain Nicolson, Leader of Renfrewshire Council** – IN stated he wanted to listen to issues and concerns that Community Councils have. He highlighted that previously roads had been a concern, the new budget features a significant investment in roads over a 4 year programme. Over 6 months potholes have been reduced from 5000 to 3000, with the aim to reduce this to a more manageable number. There is also significant investment into schools, the redevelopment of Paisley Grammar being high priority. HS raised concerns about the upcoming roadworks on Penilee Road - 2 weeks before school holidays - the detour of which leads cars along School Road - the same thing happened last year on another part of Penilee Road, complaint was made and Roads Dept said they would take this on board for future repairs but clearly haven't. IN stated that because of the 4-year programme there is more flexibility to move jobs around. IN would ask the roads department about the potential to postpone the Penilee Road works until the holidays. DD highlighted the persistent noise and swearing from the St Mirren training ground, despite repeated complaints to the Council. A resident spoke of enduring 9 years of balls being kicked against the fence and believed that they have broken planning consent and clause 3 of their lease. IN advised that he's been working with Council officers, residents and St Mirren to focus on the issues and explore possible resolutions. The Council is also developing a toolkit for residents regarding what to do about specific issues. AT asked if IN would meet with some members of Ralston CC in 3 months to give an update on progress. A resident complained about the state of the trees and pavements along Allanton Avenue. It's so bad that they often have to walk on the road, which is a significant health and safety risk and one which they will hold the Council liable for if an incident occurs. AT advised he'd received a letter from John P Wallace stating that following the recent survey the trees on Allanton Avenue will be removed and replaced and pavements resurfaced this financial year, but due to the extent of the works it will be later in the year. IN agreed to find out specific timescales for this. A resident and MF complained about the way in which weed killer had been applied to grass edges and pavements, resulting in wide patches of dead grass and weeds missed on pavements. IN advised that there are 2 separate weed programmes, one for grass edges to reduce the need for strimming and another for weeds on paths/roads. The programme for paths/roads has been delayed by a few weeks. DD stated that weed killer was being applied by quadbike, which meant that weeds by parked cars were missed. IN advised that council officers were not permitted to spray weeds by parked cars, as residents don't appreciate their cars being sprayed. However these areas should be re-sprayed at a later date. HS stated that many of the tree bases had new branches between ground and head height, however only 2 of these had been cut. MF advised that weeds in front of the community centre were getting very high and the roses haven't been trimmed in years. IN advised that the Grounds Maintenance teams have been reorganised along with a proper maintenance programme. This is currently being implemented.

**AOB** – SH invited members to attend the next Barshaw Park Litter pick on Sunday 14 July at 15.30, meeting in the car park (opposite Rowan Tree Café). SH also invited members and residents to attend a Reminiscing morning on Saturday 6 July, to enjoy free a cup of tea and cake while chatting about what it was like growing up in the area. AT and JS advised that Paisley Opera Society are interested in the Whitehaugh Barracks site for storing large pieces of scenery and possibly a Community Centre for the area. CW advised that she'd received no response from the police following an incident reported outside the salon. BG advised that work on the website was ongoing and we're trying to arrange two meetings with Brian McGuire to develop the site further and implement the directory.

**Date of next meeting** – Thursday 12 September at 7.30pm in Ralston Community Centre.